(b) Under the existing procedure, verification of membership of unions is conducted under the Code of Discipline ratified by the Indian Labour Conference in 1958 Subject to mutual consent between employers and the trade unions concerned, the verification can also be conducted through secret ballot. The judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court laying down guidelines and procedures for conducting secret ballot is confined to Food Corporation of India, based on mutual consent between the unions and FCI management and does not have general application to all other Government Corporations and undertakings.

(c) The Chief Labour Commisioner (Central) has already initiated action to comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(d) Does not arise .

Beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh

952. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many beedi workers are there in Andhra Pradesh according to Labour Ministry statistics;

(b) when was the census done; and

(c) by what system does Labour Ministry update its information on the beedi sector in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1991, the number of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh is around 6.20 lakhs.

(c) Updating of statistics is generally based on figures received from the Labour Departments of respective State Governments from time to time. Other important sources are statistics compiled by the Labour Bureau, Shimla, decennial census and sample surveys conducted by the Central Statistics Organisation from time to time.

Training and redeployment of Workers

953. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to interact closely with the various public sector Undertakings (PSUs) on a definitive package of training and redeployment of surplus workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the information provided by Ministry of Industrial Development, Employee Assistance Centres (EACs) have been established at Ahmedabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Indore and Kanpur to provide a definitive package of training including for redeployment of surplus workers. In addition to these EACs, nine other nodal agencies have come forward to take up similar work. These EACs set up under NRF (National Renewal Fund) survey the requirements of workers, counsel them and retrain them. In the Budget for the current year, an amount of Rs. 50 crores has been provided for the purpose.

In addition, Director General of Employment & Training in the Ministry of Labour has also taken up training and retraining work through their infrastructure and of Public Sector Undertakings

Two Days Indian Labour Conference

954. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) in its latest two-day

session held in January, 1995 have made wide ranging recommendations; if so, what are the details of these recommmendations;

(b) whether the ILC has urged Government to enact laws on a priority basis for unorganised agricultural and construction workers and to reorganise the country's vocational training system; if so, what are the details in this regard; and what steps Government propose to take in the matter;

(c) whether ILC has also approved the resolutions adopted in October, 1994 by the Standing Labour Committee on elimination of child labour standards and international trade; if so, what are the details of these resolutions; and

(d) whether Government propose to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The 31st Session of Indian Labour Conference held during 3-4 January, 1995 discussed papers on (i) Industrial Relations in the context of economic reforms, and (ii) Employment and Vocational Training. The Conference *inter-alia* resolved that (i) Socal partners should come together in making the comprehensive Industrial Law a reality, (2) productivity of economic enterprises should be promoted by optimising capacity utilisation and through measures/practices for producing goods and service of high quality; (3) Pension Scheme for provident fund subscribers should be introduced on a priority basis; (4) sick industrial enterprises registered with the BIFR should be inestigated speedily; 5) facilities for skill upgradation and retraining of workers should be enhanced and 6) laws for covering agricultural and constructions workers should be enacted on a priority basis.

The Indian Labour Conference also endorsed the resolutions of the 32nd Session of the Standing Labour Committee in respect of the social clause and child labour elimination. The Standing Labour Committee had unanimously resolved that the Government of India and the Organisation of Employers and workers should resist in the ILO and other fora any attempt from any quarter to introduce the "social clause" making market access to international trade conditional upon enforcement of labour standards. It was also resolved by the Standing Labour Committee that the Central and State Government and organisations of workers and employers should take coordinated action for elimination of child labour in hazardous employments by 2000 A.D. The recommendations of the Indian Labour Conference are considered by the Government while formulating various programmes and proposals.

Effective Enforcement of Laws Relating to Child Labour

955. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the labour laws under which child labour is probibited;

(b) what is the machinery for watching the effective enforcement of these laws;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act for the effective enforcement of the Child Labour laws; and

(d) if so, what are its details and by what date a suitable legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in specific occupations